

ADVERTISEMENT.

Lieutenant Col. Williams and Major Richardson.

Whereas, Major Richardson, an officer in the service of the Queen of Spain, was recently under the necessity of charging Lieut. Col. Williams of Her Britannic Majesty's Particular Service, commanding on the Prescott Frontier, with conduct highly derogatory to the character of an officer and a gentleman; and whereas the said Lieut. Col. Williams has not noticed such accusation in the manner usual on these occasions; but has on the contrary, thrown himself on the protection of the Magistracy, and furthermore given it out (not openly to Major Richardson himself, but to other parties basely and insidiously.) that his reason for not calling out Major Richardson, was the misconduct of the latter in a certain affair of honor which took place at Montreal about eighteen months ago;—this is to declare that [Major Richardson having been exonerated from blame in the affair in question, by public opinion generally, and particularly by Colonel Ellison, (then Commandant of Montreal,) and the other officers of the Grenadier Guards; (a fact of which Lieut. Col. Williams was fully cognizant from admissions contained in a certain correspondence published in the Montreal papers of the day,) this, it is repeated, is publicly to declare that the said Lieut. Col. Williams, of the Particular Service, commanding on the Prescott Frontier, is a contemptible, shuffling, and prevaricating slanderer, who has sought to avoid the personal responsibility his littleness of conduct had entailed, under a subterfuge as cowardly as it is false, calumnious, and malicious.

September 15th, 1840.

A BRIEF STATEMENT
OF THE FACTS CONNECTED WITH THE
PUBLICATION OF A
FALSE AND MALICIOUS
LIBEL,
AGAINST
LIEUT. COL. WILLIAMS
OF THE PARTICULAR SERVICE;
AND THE
CORRESPONDENCE
WHICH HAS ARISEN
THERE-FROM.

1840
(27)

A BRIEF STATEMENT. &c.

A FALSE and malicious libel in the shape of an advertisement, headed "Lieut. Colonel Williams and Major Richardson," has during my absence at the opposite end of my District, been circulated in this neighborhood, and I understand transmitted by post in various directions

Unusual as such things are, no person is safe from the ruffianly attacks of unprincipled men; and the character of the individual supposed to have circulated the libel, can best be appreciated by the fact of one of his agents entering a private dwelling and attempting to steal materials to affix the paper on the premises; his having selected the moment of my absence from that part of the country—and the *antedate* of the advertisements.

It is impossible to say what may be the opinion formed by all in a case of this nature, and as far as the public is concerned, it would in respect to two common place individuals, be of small importance. I happen however to belong to a profession, the members of which have a right to expect an explanation of what could cause such an occurrence, and reluctant as I am to be forced before the public, I shall briefly state the circumstances which led to it. I must however premise that I have never up to this moment met in any society, or spoken a single word to Major Richardson, an officer in the Queen of Spain's service, but not in the Queen of England's—and that my only communication with him is contained in the correspondence accompanying this statement.

The origin of the letters was a Card party, on or about the 17th of August, in a Bearding-house at Brockville, where I happened to be *temporarily residing*, hav-

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ing been directed to make that my Head Quarters for a short time.

The party consisted of two young and inexperienced officers under my command, who were also staying in the house, Major Richardson and some two or three others. It was kept up until 3 or 4 A. M. by some, while others did not I believe retire to rest at all; the occasional noise of this party was not only heard by me but by some of the adjoining neighbours.

Early in the morning I sent one of the above Officers who was stationed at Prescott, to his post, with a letter I had written the preceding night to Colonel Hill on matter connected with his Regiment, the 4th Batt. In. Mil. at the same time expressing disapproval of such proceedings as had been followed the preceding night. To the other Officer who is quartered at Brockville, I also spoke in a similar manner, and I was induced so to do as this was not the first time they had been similarly employed, and in company with Major Richardson.

About a week afterwards, on the 24th of August, I received a letter (No. 1) from Major Richardson, to which I immediately wrote reply (a); on the 26th came note (No. 2), replied to by my note (b); on the 19th September another letter was sent by Major Richardson which was dealt with as the other two were, except the not being read or opened by me.

I left Brockville the next morning (Friday) for the other end of the District, agreeable to an arrangement made some days previous, and to visit two detachments on the Rideau, whence I did not return until Tuesday evening.—On Friday night, I believe, or early the following morning the advertisements were posted up in various parts of Brockville & subsequently at Prescott, but were I am told speedily taken down.

As Major Richardson is known to have been publicly chastised in the streets of Montreal for doubtful

conduct in an affair with Mr. Morrison of that City, I did not consider it my place to call *him* out, nor entertain the intention of doing so; but unexpectedly attacked by a printed libel, *false and malicious in every respect*; the only terms on which I could be expected to meet such a man under such circumstances were offered; and I sent to him at Ogdensburgh where he professed to be waiting, such only as he ought to have looked for, and his refusal to accept them has stamped him in no new form, but simply renewed an old impression, in rather stronger *relief*.

I am aware he will write, and writing fiction is his calling, but I trust the above plain statement of the principal facts, and the accompanying correspondence, will show, that while [the Spanish] Major Richardson was performing in one character, he claimed and pretended to the privileges of another.

With regard to Colonel Grant's view of the offer made to Major Richardson,—opinions vary, and I differ from him; for, while on common occasions the usual distance may pass, I consider that in proportion to the injury inflicted, or attempted to be inflicted, so is the injured entitled to his own terms; and as a ball may not only hit but pass thro' a man's body in many places without killing, tho' the chance *of being wounded may be pretty certain*, 4 or 5 paces is fair, and in some cases, (perhaps for all I know in this for one,) *much fairer* than 10 or 12, and less worthy of being considered in the light Colonel Grant sees it. There is moreover little difference between the assassin of a man's character, or that of his person.

W. F. WILLIAMS.

Prescott, Sept. 25, 1840.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[No. 1]

Rock Cottage, Brockville,
August, 24th 1840.

Copy.

SIR.—

I have only just been made acquainted with the fact of your having reported, or ordered to be reported certain officers under your command, for having engaged in a private game at cards a few evenings since in this place.

Upon the disposition to continue that system of annoyance and interference in the private affairs of officers which led to repeated complaints, terminating in your removal from your Command on the Lower Canada Frontier, I have nothing to remark; but as far as regards myself who have no inclination to acknowledge your right, or succumb to your assumption of interference. With what passes under a private gentleman's roof some explanation of the step you have thought proper to pursue is necessary.

The fact of your having made the conduct of the officers alluded to, a matter of censure, of course implies impropriety on their part,—if therefore such impropriety be attributed to them, all those gentlemen not your officers composing the remainder of the party Mr. Strachan, Mr. Mair, at whose invitation we met, and myself would seem to be included in this censure.

Now Sir, as the honor of being commented upon in any way by you is not precisely what I covet, and as I cannot suffer a doubt to exist on the subject, I must beg

you distinctly to state whether your censure upon the officers to whom I have alluded was in any way intended to reflect directly or in directly upon me.

I have the honor to be

Sir, your most obedient

Humble Servant,

To Col Williams, [Signed] J. RICHARDSON.
P. S. &c. &c. &c.

REPLY [a]

Brockville, August 24, 1840.

SIR,—

I am in the receipt of a letter from you of this day's date, and have only to observe, that I am not responsible for any inference people may choose to draw from, nor accountable to you or any other private individual for the conduct I may think proper to adopt with any officers who may be under my command; tho' I might deem you were so to me for the untruth of the statement you have thought proper to make respecting my removal from the Lower Province, did I consider such an assertion, made by you, likely to effect my character in any way; and, as I have not the honor of being personally acquainted with you, neither do I covet the honor of any further correspondence with you.

I am Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

[Signed] W.F. WILLIAMS.

To J. Richardson, Esq.
Late Major Spanish Service.

[No. 2]

Brockville, 25th August, 1840.

SIR,—

As your letter of yesterday's date in reply to mine of the same morning does not deny that a reflection was intended to be cast upon me in the course you thought

proper to pursue on a recent occasion, I am under the necessity of assuming the fact.

Under these circumstances, and making due allowance for what appears to be a natural infirmity, all that remains for me to state is, that considering your conduct to have proceeded from a spirit of espionage—an intrusion into privacy as unbecoming as it is derogatory to the highmindedness of a soldier—I can entertain, and shall ever express but one sentiment for a person capable of such a dereliction from the usages of society.

[Signed]

J. RICHARDSON,

To Col. Williams,

Major late Spanish Service.

Particular Service.

REPLY [b]

Wednesday, Afternoon 26th Aug.

SIR,—

I have just received your letter, of this 25th inst. and placed it with your other letter of the day before, in the hands of a Magistrate, requesting him to relieve me from the further annoyance of one who has no claim to the treatment of a gentleman.

W. F. WILLIAMS.

To J. Richardson, Esq.,

Late Major Spanish Service.

CAPT. SHAW, TO LIEUT. COL. WILLIAMS.

Fort Wellington,

Prescott, Sept. 25th 1840.

My dear Colonel,—

On receipt of your Note [No. 1.] dated 2 o'clock P. M. on Wednesday, I proceeded to Ogdensburg, and saw Major Richardson, to whom I communicated your message, and requested that he would give me a

reply from himself whether he would, or would not, meet you on the terms offered; but he declined giving me an answer, refering me to his friend Colonel Grant (of the Leeds Militia) in whose hands he had placed himself. I without loss of time proceeded to Brockville, and saw Colonel Grant the same evening, who on my communicating with him, expressed himself willing to act as Major Richardson's friend, on the terms offered by you; but that he could not give a decided answer, until he had seen his principal, which he said he would do as early as possible on the following morning.

On my return home on Wednesday evening, I found a Note (No. 2) from Major Richardson, and at 11 o'clock on Thursday morning, I received Colonel Grant's Note (No. 3,) to which I replied (No. 4,) four hours elapsed before I received Note (No. 5); and Note (No. 6), has closed the correspondence with regard to yourself and Major Richardson, and I feel bound to state that I think you have done every thing which the peculiar circumstances of the case required on your part.

NOTE, No. 1.

Received at 2 o'clock P. M. 23rd Sept. 1840.

My dear Shaw,—

As you seem disposed to befriend me in proving what Mr. or Major Richardson is made of, as he seems to think I ought to have "called him out" to use his own phrase, I wish you would find out where he is, and say to him that the matter has been made by him too uncommon to be met in the common way, and that I will meet him on the opposite side of the St. Lawrence at four paces, *five* if he hesitates, *but not one foot further back*. I beg of you to keep him to the point.

Yours truly,

Prescott,

(Signed)

W. F. WILLIAMS.

Wednesday 23d Sept. 1840.

NOTE No. 2.

*Received on my return from Brockville at 12 O'clock
at night.*

Ogdensburgh, $\frac{1}{2}$ past 3 O'clock
September 23, 1840.

Sir,

In reference to the verbal message conveyed through you as his friend, about half an hour since by Lieut. Col. Williams, that he would meet me at four paces, and to which I replied that the arrangement rested wholly with my friend Col. Grant. to whom I referred you; I further beg to add that I shall this afternoon, and with as little delay as possible, send to Brockville for Col. Grant; who I have no doubt will be in Prescott at an early hour to-morrow, for the purpose of making such arrangements with you as may be necessary.

I am Sir, your obedient servant,

Capt. Shaw,
4th. Incorp. Batt.

(Signed) J. RICHARDSON.
Major late Spanish Service.

NOTE No. 3.

*Rec'd at 11 A. M. 21th September, 1840. Prescott,
Sir, Gurnash's Hotel, Sept. 24. 1840.*

In compliance with my engagement of yesterday. I this morning reply to your proposal of last evening in regard of the affair between Col. Williams and Major Richardson; upon reflection I cannot assent that a meeting should take place between those Gentlemen at less than the usual distance, (from 10 to 12 paces,) a shorter distance would, in the event of any thing fatal occurring, subject the surviving parties principal and seconds to a trial for murder.

I only await your reply to this note (and beg it may be in writing) to name the time and place.

I am Sir, yours &c.

Capt. Shaw,
4th. In. Batt.

(Signed) A. GRANT.

NOTE No. 4.

Delivered at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 2 P. M.

SIR,—

Prescott, 24th Sept. 1840.

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your note of this day's date, giving your reasons for not fulfilling the engagement you undertook last night, as the friend of Major Richardson, well knowing at that time the only terms on which Col. Williams could at all feel justified in meeting him, and in which I fully concurred. Under existing circumstances, I cannot alter my opinion or consent to their meeting at a longer distance than four paces.

I request an early answer *yes or no*, and if in the former, will you have the goodness to meet me, in order to make the necessary arrangements.

I am Sir, Yours &c.

To Lt. Col. Grant,

(Signed)

A. SHAW.

NOTE No. 5.

Rec'd at $\frac{1}{2}$ to 7 P. M. on 24th Sept. 1840

Prescott, 24th Sept., 1840.

Girnah's Hotel, 6 o'clock P. M.

SIR,—

I have just received your note in reply to mine of this morning, and have only to observe, that it is perfectly immaterial whether Col. Williams can or can not feel justified in meeting Major Richardson at more than four paces as you seem to intimate had been assented to by me last evening. I must beg distinctly to deny that I entered into any engagement with you last evening on the subject, on the contrary I stated to you that I had not had the slightest communication with Major Richardson, and must apprise him of your proposal before I could render you a reply.

Col Williams has sent Major Richardson a message, that message has been accepted, as is usual among gentlemen; but neither Major Richardson nor myself have any desire to be classed among assassins. If I do not hear from you in the course of one hour from this, stating Col. Williams' intention to meet Major Richardson at the usual distance, I shall be under the necessity of declining any further correspondence on the subject.

I am Sir, Yours &c.

To Capt. Shaw.

(Signed)

A. GRANT.

NOTE No. 6.

Prescott, 24th Sept., 1840.

 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 7 o'clock P. M.

SIR,—

I have just received your note dated 6 o'clock this evening, in reply to mine delivered at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 2 P. M., with respect to your denial of what I am convinced you expressed, viz: your willingness to go out as Major Richardson's friend on the terms offered by Col. Williams.

but that you must first see Major Richardson before you could give a decisive answer, and your own note moreover acknowledges that upon reflection you cannot assent that a meeting between these gentlemen should take place at less than the usual distance 10 or 12 paces.

With respect to the original matter, I consider your note a refusal on the part of Major Richardson to accede to the terms offered to him by Col. Williams, and it is needless to point to the object the Colonel had, in offering such terms only to Major Richardson.

To Lt. Col. Grant.

I am Sir, Yours &c.

(Signed)

A. SHAW.

The foregoing statement and correspondence having closed the affair between yourself & Major Richardson, I considered I ought in justice to myself to call upon Col. Grant, for an explanation of an expression made use of in his note (No. 5) I accordingly wrote to Col. Grant the note numbered 7, to which I received a reply from that gentleman numbered 8, in which he explains, that the offensive term made use of, had reference to himself and Major Richardson only; in the event of any thing fatal occurring to you, had they acceded to the terms proposed, & with this explanation, together with the expression made use of by Col. Grant to my friend Mr. Mackecknie, stating that he did not at all intend the paragraph alluded to, to apply to Capt. Shaw or his friend Col. Williams. I feel bound to rest satisfied that nothing offensive was intended.

NOTE No. 7.

Prescott, 25th Sept., 1840.

SIR,—

Having settled the object of my undertaking with respect to my friend Col. Williams, I have some explanation to request from you, as to the expression you make use of in your note of last evening respecting being "classed with assassins."

I am Sir, Yours &c.

To Lt. Col. Grant.

[Signed]

A. SHAW.

NOTE No. 8.

Prescott, Sept. 25. 1840.

Ginnish's Hotel.

SIR,—

I just received your note, calling upon me to explain in what was intended by the observation contained in my last communication that "neither Major Richardson nor Myself were desirous of being classed among assassins."

I should have imagined that any reference to this paragraph would have been made before the correspondence between us had terminated; however even at the eleventh hour I have no hesitation in affording you an explanation of my meaning. Had I suffered Major Richardson to meet and kill Col. Williams at four paces, I

bold almost inevitable from the shortness of the distance,) I should certainly have looked upon him and myself as assassins, and expected but little mercy at the hand of the Civil Power in the event of a trial. — Under these circumstances I neither could nor would have gone out as the second of Major Richardson or any other person. — These are my views of the case in regard to Major Richardson and myself; I make no comments on the views or opinions of others.

I am Sir, Y. urs &c. &c.

To Capt. Shaw.

(Signed) A. GRANT.

Having in compliance with your request given the particulars of what occurred in this affair,

I remain my dear Colonel,

Colonel Williams,
&c. &c. &c.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) A. SHAW.

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